Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for formulating a~~ ~~context representations ~~for use in information services based on an active task being manipulated by a user~~, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

   selecting a plurality of text items associated with a computer application being manipulated by a user;

   determining a first property associated with the computer application ~~properties related to the active task~~;

   determining a second property associated with the user;

   ~~generating a context representation based on an analysis of the active task;~~

   ~~retrieving~~ selecting at least one transformation rule from a plurality of transformation rules, the at least one transformation rule being selected based on the plurality of text items and at least one of the first property associated with the computer application and the second property associated with the user ~~corresponding to the properties related to the active task~~; and

   generating the context representation by applying the at least one transformation rule to the plurality of text items; and

   storing the context representation in a computer readable media.~~transforming the context representation by applying the at least one transformation rule corresponding to the properties related to the active task.~~

Claim 2 - 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 3~~1~~, wherein the ~~attributes of application software used to perform the active task~~first property includes at least one of the identity of the computer application ~~software and the~~ a type of the computer application~~ software~~.

Claim 5.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 3~~1~~, wherein the computer application ~~software is~~ includes an e-mail application.

Claim 6.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 5, wherein the at least one transformation rule ~~corresponding to the properties related to the active task~~ includes eliminating text included in a signature section of the e-mail application.

Claim 7.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein the computer application is associated with content, and the ~~properties are related to~~ first property is associated with at least one of ~~the~~ a subject matter of the ~~active task~~content, ~~or the~~ a genre of the content, and~~or~~ a type of the ~~active task~~content.

Claim 8.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~properties related to the active task~~first property is determined based on an indication provided by the user.

Claim 9.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 8, wherein the computer application is associated with content, and the user indicates ~~the~~ a subject matter ~~of the active task~~associated with the content by ~~clicking~~ selecting a button included in a graphical user interface.

Claim 10.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1 further comprising transforming the context representation based on a user input related to a trait of search.

Claim 11.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1 further comprising determining an information source on which an information search should be conducted based on at least one of the ~~properties of the active task~~first property and the second property.

Claim 12.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 11 further comprising ~~the steps of:~~ determining a third property associated with retrieving ~~information related to properties of~~ the information source~~; and further,~~ wherein retrieving the at least one transformation rule is based on the third property ~~transforming the context representation based on the properties of the information source~~.

Claim 13 - 32.   (cancelled)

Claim 33.   (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising submitting a database query based on the context representation.

Claim 34.   (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer application is being used for a task other than entering search terms for retrieving information.

Claim 35.   (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer application includes a web browser, and a type of content associated with the web browser is electronic mail.

Claim 36.   (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer application is associated with a multi-step active task and the first property associated with the computer application includes an identifier of a particular step in the multi-step task.

Claim 37.   (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one transformation rule is selected based on the plurality of text items, the first property, and the second property.

Claim 38.   (new) A machine readable medium storing software instructions structured to cause a computing device to:
select a plurality of text items associated with a computer application being manipulated by a user;

determine a first property associated with the computer application;

determine a second property associated with the user;

select at least one transformation rule from a plurality of transformation rules, the at least one transformation rule being selected based on the plurality of text items and at least one of the first property associated with the computer application and the second property associated with the user;

generate the context representation by applying the at least one transformation rule to the plurality of text items; and

store the context representation in a memory device.

Claim 39.   (new) The machine readable medium of claim 38, wherein the first property includes at least one of the identity of the computer application and a type of the computer application.

Claim 40.   (new) The machine readable medium of claim 38, wherein the computer application includes an e-mail application.

Claim 41.   (new) The machine readable medium of claim 40, wherein the at least one transformation rule includes eliminating text included in a signature section of the e-mail application.

Claim 42.   (new) The machine readable medium of claim 38, wherein the computer application is associated with content, and the first property is associated with at least one of a subject matter of the content, a genre of the content, and a type of the content.

Claim 43.   (new) The machine readable medium of claim 38, wherein the first property is determined based on an indication provided by the user.

Claim 44.   (new) The machine readable medium of claim 43, wherein the computer application is associated with content, and the user indicates a subject

matter associated with the content by selecting a button included in a graphical user interface.

Claim 45.   (new) The machine readable medium of claim 38, wherein the software instructions are structured to cause the computing device to transform the context representation based on a user input related to a trait of search.

Claim 46.   (new) The machine readable medium of claim 38, wherein the software instructions are structured to cause the computing device to determine an information source on which an information search should be conducted based on at least one of the first property and the second property.

Claim 47.   (new) The machine readable medium of claim 46, wherein the software instructions are structured to cause the computing device to determine a third property associated with the information source, wherein retrieving the at least one transformation rule is based on the third property.

Claim 48.   (new) The machine readable medium of claim 38, wherein the software instructions are structured to cause the computing device to submit a database query based on the context representation.

Claim 49.   (new) The machine readable medium of claim 38, wherein the computer application is being used for a task other than entering search terms for retrieving information.

Claim 50.   (new) The machine readable medium of claim 38, wherein the computer application includes a web browser, and a type of content associated with the web browser is electronic mail.

Claim 51.   (new) The machine readable medium of claim 38, wherein the computer application is associated with a multi-step active task and the first property

associated with the computer application includes an identifier of a particular step in the multi-step task.

Claim 52.   (new) The machine readable medium of claim 38, wherein the at least one transformation rule is selected based on the plurality of text items, the first property, and the second property.